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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,639	02/09/2000	Chun-Ming Lu	6978.0097	2896

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP
1300 I STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SCHLAIFER, JONATHAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

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DATE MAILED: 07/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/500,639

Applicant(s)

LU ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan D Schlaifer

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2000, 14 November 2000 (IDS).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application 09/500,639 filed on 02/09/2000; prior art filed on 11/14/2000.
2. Claims 1-25 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 12, 23, 24, and 25 are independent claims.

Drawings

3. New corrected drawings are required in this application because "Display" is misspelled as "Dislpay" (Item 312), "System" is misspelled as "Sytem" (Item 508), and the numeric labels for Figures 6-8 are hand-drawn and illegible. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 6, line 4, "representation" should be "representative". Also, Steps 414 and 416 as portrayed in the drawings are never described in the specification. On page 15, line 18, the processing error is step 510, not 506. On page 16, line 3, it should be noted that direction to the "under construction" web page is step 512.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1, 12, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Graber et al. (USPN 5,812,769 – filing date 9/22/1998).**
6. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Graber et al. (Graber) discloses: “a method and apparatus for redirecting a user from a first location on the WWW to a second location on the WWW, wherein relative URL addressing is used during the redirecting process” (Graber on col. 3, lines 16-19). This is equivalent to “forwarding a web address to another web address in a network”, comprising the steps of:
 - a. Receiving a request destined to a first web address including at least a domain name (Graber on col. 3, lines 19-21: teaches receiving an initiating signal to begin forwarding);
 - b. Determining a forwarding uniform resource location (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (Graber on col. 3, lines 27-29: teaches how to form a destination URL)
 - c. Redirecting the request to a second web address that corresponds the to forwarding URL (Graber on col., lines 31-34: teaches how to redirect the user to a new location in accordance with the forwarding URL)

7. **Regarding independent claim 12**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.
8. **Regarding independent claim 23**, an apparatus with a memory and a processor for performing the steps recited in claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.
9. **Regarding independent claim 25**, a method for performing the steps recited in claim 1 upon a web address (which is equivalent to claim 1, as web addresses can be represented by URLs), and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claims 2-3 and 13-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of O'Neill et al. (USPN 6,128,279 – filing date 10/1/1998).**
11. **Regarding dependent claim 2**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. However, Graber does not explicitly disclose “wherein the first web address includes a uniform resource identifier”. However, O'Neill et al. (O'Neill) teaches in col. 7, lines 55-67 of that a “URL/URI” forms one integrated unit, and describe how the URL and URI are typically combined to distribute requests among servers. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a first web address

that includes a uniform resource identifier (URI) to aid in request distribution when forwarding web requests.

12. **Regarding dependent claim 13**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 2, and is rejected under the same rationale.
13. **Regarding dependent claim 3**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. However, Graber does not explicitly disclose “wherein the second web address includes the forwarding URL and the URI”. However, O’Neill teaches in col. 7, lines 55-67 of that a “URL/URI” forms one integrated unit, and describe how the URL and URI are typically combined to distribute requests among servers. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a second web address that includes the forwarding URL and the URI to aid in request distribution when forwarding web requests.
14. **Regarding dependent claim 14**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 3, and is rejected under the same rationale.
15. **Claims 4 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Horstmann et al (USPN 5,995,099 – filing date 6/10/1996).**
16. **Regarding dependent claim 4**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. However, Graber does not explicitly disclose the details of the determining step, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a search for forwarding information can

be completed, and indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed. However, in Figure 5, Steps 52 and 53, Horstmann et al. (Horstmann) teaches that one should attempt to see if pages exist in order to establish if links "correspond with valid page addresses" (col. 5, lines 9-10). Subsequently, an error message is generated if there is a problem (col. 5, lines 10-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add an error check and message feature onto Graber's invention to determine if a search for forwarding information could be completed and to indicate that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

17. **Regarding dependent claim 15**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
18. **Claims 5 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Horstmann et al (USPN 5,995,099 – filing date 6/10/1996) as applied to claims 4 and 15 above, and further in view of Ogle et al. (USPN 6,052,736 – filing date 3/31/1997).**
19. **Regarding dependent claim 5**, Graber and Horstmann disclose the method of claim 4. However, they fail to disclose directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found. Ogle et al. (Ogle) teach that in a network a "datagram may be sent to a default address" to deal with the case "if no direct or indirect route is specified" (col. 2, lines 26-27). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art to combine Graber et al. and Horstmann et al.'s work, as in claim 4, and further improve the result by the means of directing web requests to a default address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found in order to deal with the case where no set destination is provided.

20. **Regarding dependent claim 16**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5, and is rejected under the same rationale.
21. **Claims 6-8 and 17-19 and 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Muller et al. (USPN 6,128,279 – filing date 6/30/1997), and further in view of Fogg et al. (USPN 6,321,242 – filing date 2/6/1998).**
22. **Regarding dependent claim 6**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. Graber fails to disclose that the determining step would comprise searching a data file for the forwarding URL. In Muller et al. (Muller), they teach how to use a forwarding database search engine may be used in network routing “for achieving a cost-effective high-performance switch implementation” (col. 1, lines 14-17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a forwarding database (which would necessitate searching a data file for the forward URL) into the design of Graber’s invention in order to achieve a cost-effective high-performance routing implementation.

23. **Regarding dependent claim 17**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
24. **Regarding dependent claim 7**, Graber and Muller disclose the method of claim 6. They fail to disclose wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of extracting forwarding information from a customer database and storing the forwarding information in the data file. Fogg et al. (Fogg, col. 4, lines 45-49) teaches, "When the receiver webmaster changes the uniform resource locator (URL) of a documents (210) the receiver re-liner generates a re-link message" with the motivation "to easily update hypertext links in documents on feeder sites to point to new locations for a receiving site document when the document has been relocated" (lines 62-65, column 1). This would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to improve the results of combining the work of Graber et al. and Muller et al. by adding a data generator that periodically updates a data file by extracting forwarding information from a database and storing the forwarding information in the data file.
25. **Regarding dependent claim 18**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 7, and is rejected under the same rationale.
26. **Regarding dependent claim 8**, Graber, Muller, and Fogg disclose the method of claim 7. It is further necessary to have the customer database include a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL. Muller et al. teaches how to employ a data table

to associates an "IP source address" with an "Internet Protocol (IP) destination address" (col. 13, lines 15-16) to provide "information for making real-time packet forwarding and filtering decisions" (col. 11, lines 66-67). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a similar data table as in Muller that associates the domain name with the forwarding URL in order to provide information for forwarding and filtering decisions.

27. **Regarding dependent claim 19**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 8, and is rejected under the same rationale.
28. **Regarding dependent claim 24**, a system for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
29. **Claims 9-10 and 20-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kirsch et al. (USPN 5,751,956 – filing date 2/21/1996).**
30. **Regarding dependent claim 9**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. Graber fails to disclose that the redirecting step would comprise sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL. In col. 10, lines 30-35, Kirsch et al. teach how a URL is "issued back to the client system", in order to issue a redirection request. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to send the user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

31. **Regarding dependent claim 20**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
32. **Regarding dependent claim 10**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. Graber fails to disclose that the redirecting step would comprise sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL using http. In col. 10, lines 30-35, Kirsch et al. teach how a URL is "issued back to the client system", which is done by http in the context of the invention, in order to issue a redirection request. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to send the user a string that includes the forwarding URL using a hypertext transfer protocol location command.
33. **Regarding dependent claim 21**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10, and is rejected under the same rationale.
34. **Claims 11 and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fogg et al. (USPN 6,321,242 – filing date 2/6/1998).**
35. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, Graber discloses the method of claim 1. Graber's work lacks the feature of explicitly stating that the user provides the web request. In lines 60-65, Fogg et al. describe how it is common practice for a user to send a "request message to the receiving site" by "clicking on a hypertext link", in order to retrieve a document. Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have the user supply the request in order to select a document .

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36. **Regarding dependent claim 22** a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11, and is rejected under the same rationale.

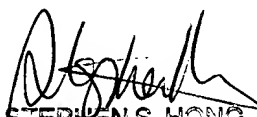
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan D Schlaifer whose telephone number is 703-305-9777. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

js
July 1, 2003


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER